(c) the manner in which Government propose to dispose of the stock of imported edible oils?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) An estimated quantity of about 1.29 lakh MT of imported Soyabean and Rapeseed Oils were in stock with the STC at the end of the year 1988 valued at approximately Rs. 82.27 crores in terms of foreign exchange.

(b) The Government stopped the supply of imported edible oils at concessional rates to the Vanaspati Industry w.e.f. December, 1988 because of the increased availability of indigenous edible oils in the market and declining prices. As this position remains unchanged it is presently felt that the supply of imported edible oils at concessional rates to the vanaspati industry would not be appropriate.

(c) The Government has decided to utilise the stocks of rapeseed oil to meet the requirements of Public Distribution System and the stocks of Soyabean oil to meet the requirements of the Armed Forces/PDS.

Public distribution outlets in Rural and Urban areas

2652. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of the public distribution system outlets in the Rural areas as compared to the outlet in the Urban areas and what are the reasons for wide variations in the PDS outlets;

(b) what percentage of the target for opening of fair price shops in under-served and unserved areas during the Seventh Plan besides organising mobile shops in far flung area have been achieved at the end of 1988 stating the reasons for unsatisfactory results; and

(c) whether any evaluation of the public distribution system has been made to know how far it has served the rural poor in alleviation of poverty and protecting them against inflationary prices; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) Out of 3.50 lakh fair price shops in the country as on 30-9-1988, about 76 per cent are in the rural areas and 24 per cent in the urban areas. As the rural population is larger than the urban population, more fair price shops are located in rural areas.

(b) The targets and the achievements of opening fair price shops during 1985-86 to 1988-89 are given below.

Year	Targets	Achievements
1985-86 .	6065	8520
1986-87 .	6505	9847
1987-88 .	4035	9926
1988-89 .	4387	4307 (upto December, 1988)

(c) In its Evaluation Report on Essential Supplies Programme submitted in February, 1985, the Programme Evaluation Organisation (P.E.O.) of the Planning Commission has given a finding, *inter alia*, on the basis of households canvassed, that one of the cardinal objectives of the Public Distribution Programme, *viz.*, that of adequately covering the poorer sections of the population, especially in rural areas, was being fulfilled.

Capacity utilisation norms for different category of fertilizers plants

2653. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the promised return of 12 per cent post-tax under the fertilizers retention price scheme has not been materialised so far; if so, what are the reasons therefor;